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FDA Commissioner Jane Henney
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 00N-1396 and 00D-1598

March 9th, 2001

Dear Ms. Henney,

I am writing to you regarding the FDA's proposed regulation on genetically engineered food and crops. I have learned that this proposal does not require either labeling or testing and I therefore believe it is an inadequate protection of public health and our shared environment.

Once a modified organism is placed in the gene pool, it cannot be removed. When DDT was discovered to be a tremendously dangerous chemical, it was possible to simply cease using it and to allow nature to heal. Not so, in this case, as future generations of a genetically altered organism carry that alteration in their genetic codes. Unlike hybridization, genetically altered organisms retain their fertility. It is tremendously irresponsible to release such products on the market and into the environment when we have, as yet, no real understanding of the long-term effects these products may have on our ecosystem and on the public health. There should be a moratorium on genetically engineered products until long-term studies show they are safe on all counts. Humankind has survived without these products for thousands of years; no doubt we can afford to be cautious.

Furthermore, the proposed regulations do not even require product labeling! Certainly at the very **least**, the public has the right to decide, each individual for themselves, whether or not to ingest genetically engineered foods, and whether or not they wish to support this particular industry.

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of these points.

Sincerely,

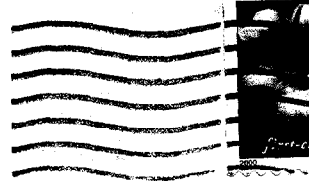
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FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
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ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

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